

THE MOUNT DIABLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S

CARRIER

ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Volume XLII - Issue 03 - March 1995

Editor - Greydon H. Hicks, KC6SLE

Distribution: Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Walt Ebbett, KB6QIB,
and Dick Schulze, AA6DL

The opinions expressed in the Carrier are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the Board of Directors or membership of MDARC unless the author is a member of the MDARC Board of Directors and is speaking in an official capacity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Larry Gansz, KB2GV

As we head into March the many varied club activities are underway with many more rapidly approaching. Public service activities are starting and continue with a very busy summer. This month brings the first MDARC auction of the year, bring your "valuable junk" another's "treasure". Field day preparations are underway, George is working on continued improvements to the July picnic, new and upgrade classes are active, and monthly exams. Dick and crew are hard at work improving the "class act" PACIFICON, RRRG is updating the repeater systems, and our monthly programs continue to be entertaining and informative on a wide range of topics.

We are continuing planning for capital funds expenditures. Please continue to submit ideas to Tom Seabury. Ideas so far include investing the money, school clubs, school science projects, Red Cross communications equipment, donations to charities, Marconi site support, and amateur radio land line BBS. Keep the ideas coming. A major factor in implementing many of these is the availability of a "committee" and will to spearhead the effort, develop, plan, and ensure continuing support. We have followed some of your recommendations to improve club activities, dues alone no longer fully support the club. We upgraded the picnic and made significant changes to the holiday dinner. We awarded scholarships and bought books for libraries and schools. We will look at more applications at the March board meeting.

Many people ask about the quantity and quality of door prizes at club meetings. Presently, we spend about \$95 on Ham related prizes and about \$40 on other prizes each month. In recent years this was not treated as a fund raiser. We determined this amount based on ticket sales. As we sell more tickets, we'll buy more door prizes.

See you at the auction. 73s Larry

Public Service Events

John Stuart, KM6QX

MDARC has been asked to provide communication services for a number of public service events this year. Besides being a lot of fun, and providing a chance to practice our ARES /RACES skills in the field, these activities are a fundamental purpose of our Amateur Radio Service. No experience necessary, on the job training given. You can sign-up now by contacting Joe Gregory, WA6DQN, 510 283-6560 for the horse rides, or John Stuart, KM6QX, 510 283-2797.

Date	Event and Location	#
3/18 Sat.	John Muir Bike Adventure Martinez Marina	3
4/2 Sun.	Multiple Sclerosis Walk Walnut Creek	7
4/8 Sat.	New Horizon Arabian Horse Assoc. Sunol Regional Park	3
5/6 Sat.	Diablo Vista, Horse Ride Mt. Diablo State Park	5
5/7 Sun.	Devil Mountain Run, Children's Hospital Danville Town & Country, 5k & 10K	3
5/20 Sat.	Clean Air Challenge, Bike Ride Oakhill Park, Danville	6
5/21 Sun.	75 mi. Bike Ride, Soroptimist of Moroga Moroga: Castro Valley - Briones	5
6/3 Sat	Tri-Valley Trail Blazers Horse Ride Mission Peak Regional Park	5
7/29-30 Sat./Sun	IAHA Champ. Competitive Horse Ride Ohlone Wilderness	9

= Number of volunteer positions still open

MADARC SPRING AUCTION
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1995
7:00 PM/1900 HOURS

Grateful for Donations

Sam Lipson, KO6JR @ KO6JR-1 (145.01 mHz)

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Examiners (the group that brings you exams prior to the club meetings) wishes to gratefully acknowledge the donation of two audio amplifier systems. These were donated by Jerry White (WB6IZE). These amplifiers will be used for future code tests to be given by us. Jerry also donated headphones for our use. THANK YOU VERY MUCH JERRY; WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY.

April Meeting Speaker Flies Via Radio

John Stuart, KM6QX

MDARC's April 21 meeting will feature a video and slide show of large radio controlled model aircraft. The speaker, Mark Heckman, has been an active RC model aircraft designer, pilot, and flight instructor for more than 15 years. He will discuss his experiences utilizing RC aircraft for aerial photography and data gathering as well as commercial uses for RC Unmanned Aircraft. Some of his designs have an 8 ft. wingspan, 2 HP engine, and 15 pound payload. Sound like a perfect vehicle to carry an ATV and GPS/APRS package!

Minutes of General Membership Meeting

February 17, 1995

Richard M. Shappee, Secretary, MDARC

President Larry, KB2GV, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. He had very well organized sign-up sheets from VP John, KM6QX, for coming public service events. These were passed around during the meeting. Next he had new members and visitors introduce themselves, followed by upgrades. All were recognized by applause from the nearly 120 persons in attendance.

Minutes of the past meeting, with a few typographical errors, were approved as published in the CARRIER. Membership Chairman, AA6DL, announced that our membership stood at 543. He gave credit to outgoing Membership Chairman George, KT6Y, and the 'three' jobs that he had done for the club. Treasurer Frank, WA6NSC, thanked outgoing treasurer Stan, WU6P, for the job he had done. He subsequently reported that we had \$7,350.65 in our checking account and \$22,937.27 in all accounts. As to the concern some had about the new treasurer buying a new Jaguar, Frank let us know that we didn't have near enough funds (yet.) Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ, reported that he had drafted a letter to go to schools concerning interest in forming or supporting ham clubs with the objective of seeing if this was an area where we might spend some of our capital funds.

EC Chairman Sam, KO6JR, advised that the next training in Packet and message handling would probably take place in March. He announced other training scheduled in San Ramon for March 25 at the Chevron facility. He put on his other hat and talked about the club VE program. He said that starting in April all written elements will be offered. He said that five of six candidates passed their tests at the session held the evening of the club meeting. Tests will not be offered in March or September (auction nights) or December (Christmas Party.)

Jim Tittle, KC6SOE, sometimes RRRG Chairman, announced the availability of 10-channel video switchers, at \$75.00, complete with manuals and schematics. Proceeds of the sale will go toward the ATV link to Southern California.

Education Chairman Jim, WB6LQG, said that the Winter ham classes were off to a good start with 17 people in classes. Eleven of these are upgrading their licenses. Doughnut, and picnic chairman George, WB6OFH, reminded us that our picnic is planned for July 23 and that it will be bigger and better than ever. He suggested that members should hone up their hidden transmitter hunting skills for that always popular event.

PACIFICON '95 Chairman Dick, KT6X, told that the next planning meeting would be the following day and that everyone was welcomed. Field Day Chairman Lauren, WA6CIE, spoke of field day plans and of the door prizes for the evening.

President Larry, KB2GV, read from the audit committee report for the year end. He also told us that the auction would be the next program. The event starts at 7:00 PM. Blanks for bringing items to the auctioneer's gavel will be in the next issue of the CARRIER. He also reminded the members that we still are looking for a public events chairman. He also asked that Tom Seabury, KC6SYG, Capital Funds Chairman or Richard, WA5HQJ, be contacted if members have a suggestion as to how we should spend our capital money. Under new business he announced that the next Board meeting would be held on Monday, February 20, at the home of WA5HQJ. All are welcomed.

The program for the evening was put on by Judy Adler, the Executive Director of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Society. She told us of interesting facts about the mountain and presented a fine slide show of views on the mountain and of flora and fauna. The members showed their appreciation for her talk with a rousing applause at the end.

Tower, Antennas and Rotor.

Claude R. MacKay, WB6LMY

I have the following equipment for sale at a great price with one catch, you take it down.

50' Triex crank up tower with 10' mast
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KLM 13 element 2-Meter beam
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CDR rotor and controller

The 7 element beam is worth more than my asking price of \$500.. Call 510-945-7388.

**SPRING MDARC AUCTION FRIDAY,
MARCH 17, 1995
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1035 CAROL LANE
LAFAYETTE
07:00 PM/1900 HOURS**

SUCKER, Reprinted from the QCA NorCal Newsletter

For years it was believed that electric bulbs emitted light; however, recent information has proven otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light, they suck dark. Thus we call these bulbs "Dark Suckers." The following dark sucker theory proves:

1. The existence of dark
2. That dark has a mass greater than that of light
3. Dark is faster than light

The basis of the dark sucker theory is that electric light bulbs suck dark. Take for example, the dark suckers in the room where you are. There is less dark right next to them than there is elsewhere. The larger the dark sucker, the greater capacity to suck dark. The dark suckers in a parking lot have a much greater capacity than the ones in your room.

As with all things, dark suckers do not last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the dark spot on a full dark sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all of the dark that has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got into the way of the dark flowing into the candle. Unfortunately, these very primitive dark suckers have a very limited range.

There are also portable dark suckers. The bulbs in these can't handle all of the dark by themselves and must be aided by a dark storage unit. When the dark storage unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable dark sucker can work again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a dark sucker the friction from this mass creates heat. Thus it is not advisable to touch an

operating dark sucker. Candles present a special problem as the dark must travel through the wick instead of through glass. This generates a great amount of heat. Thus it can be very dangerous to touch an operating candle. Dark is also heavier than light. If you swim just below the surface of a lake, you will see a lot of light. As you swim deeper and deeper you will notice that it gets slowly darker and darker. When you reach a depth of approximately 50 feet, you will be in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats to the top.

The immense power of dark can be used to man's advantage. We can collect the dark that has settled to the bottom of lakes and rivers and push it through turbines which generate electricity and help push dark to the ocean where it may be safely stored.

Prior to turbines, it was much harder to get dark from the rivers and to the ocean. The Indians recognized this problem and tried to solve it. When on a river in a canoe traveling in the same direction as the flow of dark, they paddled slowly, so as to not stop the flow of dark. But when they traveled against the flow of the dark, they paddled quickly so as to help push the dark along its way.

Finally, we will prove that dark is faster than light. If you were to stand in an illuminated room in front of a closed dark closet and open the door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet. But since the dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leaving the closet.

In conclusion, I would like to say that dark suckers make all of our lives easier. So the next time you look at an electric bulb, remember that it is indeed a dark sucker.

THE BASE STATION

Your Contra Costa Headquarters

A.E.A. Interfaces, TNCs, & Antennas
 Ameco Books, Code Keys & Oscillators
 Amphenol Coax Connectors
 Astron Regulated Power Supplies
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 AOR Ace Scanning Receivers
 Bencher Paddles
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 Butternut Antennas

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

by Dick Schulze, AA6DL

MDARC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

BALDWIN, Scott; N6UUH, Technician
2872 Cypress Way, Fairfield, CA 94533
(707)422-6142(h)

BLAIR, Gordon; KE6OFW, Technician
544 Ygnacio Valley Rd. #269
Walnut Creek, CA 94596, (510)938-2611(h&w)

BROWN, Jeff; KE6DRP, Technician
1157 Jensen, Pittsburg, CA 94565
(510)432-3869(h&w)

BUFFO, Terry; KE6MVN, Technician
980 W. Cypress Rd., Oakley, CA 94561
(510)947-6207(w), (510)947-6478(fax)

GAGNE, Ray; SWL, 4101 Null Dr. Antioch, CA 94509
(510)757-3368(h)

HENNESSY, Timothy W. (Tim); KE6NMQ, Technician
P.O.Box 272176, Concord, CA 94527

JANSSEN, William W. (Bob); K7NOM, Advanced
11741 Cresthill Dr., Elk Grove, CA 95624
(916) 682-6841(h)

LEPAK, Dennis; KE6KKL, Technician
542 Center Ave. #210, Martinez, CA 94553

RAINES, Rodney D., Jr. (Rod); SWL
2748 Courtland Drive, Concord, CA 94520
(510) 689-1634(h)

SAMAHON, Hildegard; KE6ODY, Technician
2806 Bluebell Circle, Antioch, CA 94509

SCHAEFER, Leland W. (Lee); KE6KEQ, Technician
1410 Cambridge St., Novato, CA 94947
(415)897-3392(h), (415)897-7871(w),
(415)897-7891(fax)

STRAUS, Jeffrey (Jeff); KE6QYM, Technician
145 Cafeto Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
(510)933-9484

THORNE, Robert M; N6NUY, General
Rt. 1 Box 509A, Bonner Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5908

The following members renewed after the close of the directory:

BERRY, Jim; KE6IZP, Technician
166 Arends Dr., Danville, CA 94506
(510)837-8926(h), (510)675-2350(w),
(510)837-5144(fax)

BERRY, Josh; KE6IZQ, Technician
166 Arends Dr., Danville, CA 94506
(510)837-8926

FUKUDA, Akira (Aki); KN6UC, Extra
1035 Quartermaster Canyon Rd.,
San Ramon, CA 94583, (501)735-0969(h)
(510)682-4804(w), (510)682-2931(fax)

LUTTRINGER, Ron; K6XC, Extra
1110 Via Media, Lafayette, CA 94549
(510)283-7872(h), (510)256-0606(w)

LUTTRINGER, Scott; KD6QPG
1110 Via Media, Lafayette, CA 94549
(510)283-7872(h)

HICKS, Greydon H; KC6SLE, Technician
4517 Shellflower, Ct., Concord, CA 94518
(510)798-1251(h), (415)973-3643(w)

SHERWOOD, Robert J. (Bob); WK6X, Extra
3740 Carrigan Common, Livermore, CA 94550
(510)443-4990(h)

THOMASON, Rusty; KC6WXX, Technician
2225 Begonia Ct., Pittsburg, CA 94565
(510)439-8799(h), (510)932-6900(w)

VIOLET, Mark; N6RCG, General
7289 Wild Currant Way, Oakland, CA 94611
(510)339-9327(h), (510)222-8110(w)

VIOLET, Robin; N6ZHB, Technician
7289 Wild Currant Way, Oakland, CA 94611
(510)339-9327(h)

Congratulations to the following on their upgrade and/or new call:

Ted Armstrong: General, KA6LCL
Robert C. Bickel: Advanced, KO6PL
David M. Fellom: Technician, KE6RFX
Dennis Fuller: General, KC6QHH
Bill Moresi: Extra, N6FER
Rod Raines: Technician, KE6QYK
Christopher Schweickert: Extra, AC6KF
Tom Schweickert: Extra, AC6KE
Bruce N. Smith: General, KC6JMN
Paula Whitney: Technician, KE6PPT

Please note the following changes:

Ray Bryant: new telephone is (510) 939-3159(h)
Doug Faunt: Spouse is Lyn Paleo
Lyn "Faunt": Correct name is Lyn Paleo
Jim Greenwood: Correct home # (510)779-1168
Dennis Peck: new office # (510)279-6611
Eme Pena: Correct name is Esmeralda (Eme) de la Pena
Rod Raines: Fax # (510)689-0478

Dear MDARC Members,

I was glad to see our letter in the January *Carrier* sparked other letters about uses for the club's money. Since I authored the letter in the January *Carrier*, I think I should write to clarify some of the distortions published by these letter writers. They said we advocated "emptying the treasury" or "that the financial reserves of MDARC be spent or given away." Anyone who took the time to read the letter would see this simply is not true. We are looking towards the future and suggested uses for the "upcoming PACIFICON" money. Among our suggestions was to use the funds for Amateur related causes "especially ways to help young HAMs get into Amateur Radio."

My suggestion, along with others, is to find something MDARC can support. Every member I spoke to wants to use the money for a worthwhile cause, but they want it to be radio related. That's fair enough, but historically it has been the "kiss of death". I've been involved in MDARC for many years and almost every single time a radio related idea comes up it gets shot down and buried. The vehemence against the proposal for an emergency van illustrates my point. The problem is that when well meaning people make suggestions for Amateur related things they get shouted down or ridiculed.

Both Dick Brown's and Paul Girard's letters in the February *Carrier* attest to that. Whether an emergency van is a good idea or not gets lost in the discussion. The same is true for the club owning radio equipment (i.e. a rotor), and most other proposals.

So what has worked? The scholarship program and giving books to schools and libraries. It appears MDARC is willing to throw its support along these lines in lieu of most other things. (Anyone who feels those are "publicity stunts" or "have no value" makes a mockery of some of our best efforts.) For years MDARC spent a considerable sum on radio classes, but that changed several years ago. And as yet, MDARC has not shown an inclination to own or support equipment beyond what is already being done by RRRG.

The previous board of directors has already started a process to find a appropriate use for club money. I think the board made a wise decision and I look forward to seeing any results that might come out of this. I would also like to encourage people who have made good suggestions to keep them coming and not to let the distortions and ridicule of the nay-sayers stand in the way.

73, Pete Tormey, N6QGN

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9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Store Walk-In Hours:

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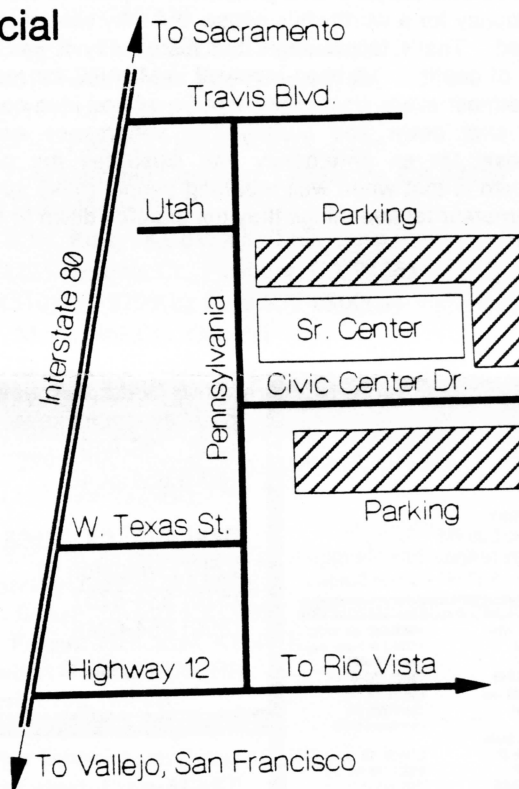
1995 Schedule

What? Commercial and Amateur Radio License Examinations
 Where? Fairfield Senior Center - 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield, CA
 When? The Last Saturday of Every Month:

January 28	April 29	July 29	October 28
February 25	May 27	August 26	November 25
March 25	June 24	September 30	December 30

See us also at Pacificon '95 at the Concord Hilton on October 21 and 22

- ★ We examine on all amateur and commercial license elements currently available
- ★ Exams given in order requested
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Amateur Info: ARRL rates and policy: Walk-ins OK. Exams begin at 9:00 AM; none started after 11:30 AM. \$5.90 fee for all the elements you can take in one sitting, but \$5.90 additional for each element retested at the same session. Two forms of ID required. Upgraders bring original licenses and CSCEs and copies of both.

Commercial Info: NRE rates and policy: **Preregistration is required.** Original exams are \$35 per license (any number of exams); retests are \$35 per license (any number of exams). The FCC requires an additional \$35 fee to be submitted with some applications. **Exams begin at 8:00 AM; no one admitted after 8:30 AM.**

For More Information Contact
Dick, AB6EY, Granite Bay, CA (916) 791-0268 or
"J.R.", N6PWE, Fairfield, CA (707) 422-5612

The NorCal Radio Examiner Group

Board of Director's Meeting

February 20, 1995

Richard M. Shappee WA5HQJ

Secretary, MDARC

President Larry, KB2GV, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Visitors at the meeting were Brian James, KD6TPN, Greydon Hicks, KC6SLE, Paul Girard, KC6TZU, Dick Brown, KT6X, George Roush, KB6OFH, Dick Schulze, AA6DL and Lauren Styles, WA6CIE. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the CARRIER.

Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ, read a draft of a letter proposed to be sent to schools soliciting their interest in amateur radio. It was thought that the first mailing, from a list to be prepared by Sam, KO6JR, would go to 20 or 30 schools in central Contra Costa County. Suggestions were made that we should include verbiage related to how many dollars we were presently spending on scholarships. Other comments related to the thought that we should ask if there was existing amateur radio equipment at the school, and should we ask about parental interest. The group agreed that we should leave the refinements of the letter to Sam, KO6JR. He was authorized to dispatch up to 40 letters.

Club member Dick, KT6X, presented to the Board of Directors a suggestion that we expend capital funds to implement a land line BBS. His proposal has been forwarded to the appropriate committee. For the record, he estimates that such a BBS would cost about \$2,500 for initial implementation.

Brian James, KD6TPN, appeared before the Board to ask that the capital committee consider funding the cost of two 2-meter, 440 transceivers for two Red Cross vehicles.

Tom Seabury, KC6SYG, suggested that we consider making a contribution to the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Society. Dick Schulze, AA6DL agreed and proposed a corporate membership. Other proposed projects have been suggested by members and will be given equal consideration.

George Roush, WB6OFH, asked how we planned to handle ticket sales at the April meeting as Lauren will not be there. Other subjects discussed included the advisability of having coffee making instructions posted in the area of the coffee pots and decisions concerning how many doughnuts to buy, arrangements for locking up and access to the public address cabinet. George also asked who would be at the Lafayette Reservoir early the day of our picnic to insure our location (This has been done by George Jones, KI6YK, in the past). The decision was reached to again put on a hamburger barbecue if our chefs of last year can do so. Otherwise, the issue of a catered picnic will be further explored. As a last picnic item, it was moved, seconded and passed that we would have up to \$75.00 in T-hunt prizes this year.

Field Day Chairman Lauren, WA6CIE, announced that he had band captains appointed for field day. The question of organization came up again. Lauren said he would investigate the advisability of a having a functionally oriented group rather than the past practice of having teams. He also said that he anticipated no problem getting use of the park although he has not heard back yet. Discussion was held concerning having a second field day site. The train museum at Rio Vista and Lime Ridge were both considered. Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ,

proposed that Lime Ridge might get us more publicity and perhaps could be an entirely solar powered station. Another person suggested that we might want to make it a satellite communicating station. Lauren plans to have the first Field Day planning meeting on Wednesday following the auction. He will coordinate with Dick, AA6DL, regarding the necessary insurance certificate.

Treasure Frank, WA6NSC, reported that we had \$7,350 in our checking account, \$22,937 total in all accounts and that all bills had been paid.

Membership Chairman Dick, AA6DL, reported that we had 547 members and that renewals were still trickling in.

EC Sam, KO6JR, reported that no March training date had been set. As VE Sam, he asked that the Board authorize the continuation of giving exams for the period April through August. It was moved, seconded and passed.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the CARRIER. The desire was expressed that we find ways to improve the quality of the newsletter, lower cost of printing and postage and decrease the rather large effort expended by a few members to fold, staple, label, stamp and mail the letter. Editor Greydon, KC6SLE, led the discussion and also proposed that we have both an Editor and a Publisher where the Editor would serve in the traditional capacity of gathering and writing articles whereas the publisher would have the responsibility for assembly, printing and distribution of the CARRIER. The board agreed with Greydon's recommendation. Dick, AA6DL, presented a summary of proposed means of lowering postage costs and agreed to carry this effort forward and to see about our eligibility for a non-profit mailing permit, with its substantial savings in postage costs. Board Member Tom, KC6SYG offered to help. Visitor Paul, KC6TZU, told the group of means by which the printing could be improved in quality and the cost possibly be reduced. It was proposed by Dick, AA6DL, that we try having the letters for the next two months folded, stapled, labeled and stamped by the printer for a cost each month not to exceed \$45.00. It was pointed out that our member labor contribution to do the same job was over 10 hours. His suggestion was put in the form of a motion, seconded and passed.

Secretary Richard, WA5HQJ, spoke of ways that club property could be inventoried and identified. This was the result of Board action last month. He presented the Board with a source of tags that would cost about \$190.00. Since this is beyond the amount the Board can spend for a non-budgeted item, it will be brought to the membership at the April meeting. Richard also offered to write the procedure to be used to implement the inventory process.

It was proposed to the Membership Chairman that we should send a letter of welcome to new members along with the membership card and bylaws presently sent. He agreed to do so. It was also brought out that the club information sheet needs to be brought up to date. Paul, KC6TZU, offered to handle this task and will bring the new sheet to the board for its approval.

The next meeting will be held at Treasurer Frank's home on March 20, 1995 at 7:30 PM. There being no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:45 PM and refreshments were then enjoyed by those present.

HTs on SKIS

Last month Marc Sharon, KD6IZX, and I took our families on a weekend ski trip to Tahoe. Naturally, as HAMs, we felt compelled to combine the technology of Amateur Radio with the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" as the old Wide World of Sports indro said week after week. So along with us went the dual band HTs; first to allow us to maintain constant surveillance on each others progress as we caravanned to the Sierras and second to see what kind of ski legs the Kenwood and Yaesu have. Don't ask what our wives thought.

Now combining the use of Amateur Radio to all kinds of outdoor activities is not new, nor do I suspect we are even close to being the first to QSO while cutting through the trees on well groomed ice. For example, MDARC has many matured members who can be heard conversing on 220 daily about the many hazards and challenges of bicycling the trails of Concord and Walnut Creek. Others sail off the peaks of Mount Diablo with an HT along for the hopefully "slow fall", others wind their way through the water ways of the Delta with an HT on board. But this was Marc and my first try at Amateur Radio and skiing and we'd like to share the experience and lessons learned.

I started first started skiing when thirty plus and have never had a lesson other than from people who call themselves friends. Their style of training was to take me to the top of some of the most awful looking cliffs with strange looking snow mounds cemented to the sides and pushing me over the edge. Their theory was I'd either be a much better skier at the bottom of the mountain or it wouldn't matter anyway.

Needless to say, I'll never be a great skier, but my "friends" did succeed in teaching me how to take a fall. So knowing that falling on an HT might damage a valuable piece of equipment (not me, the radio), one should give some thoughts as to how and where to carry the radio. The belt line to the side of the hip or the south is definitely a high risk, high impact zone. If you ski in bib overalls or a jump suit then you know that there is no belt line to hang the HT on anyway. Our solution was to place the HT in the breast pocket of our wool shirts out of harms way and in any easy to access location. Positioning the unit in the pocket with the antenna to the outside of the body retains good coverage. If your pocket has a button flap all the better for it restrains the unit as you practice your hot-dogging skills.

A mini mike is a must. Just clip to the collar of your shirt and push and talk. Now grabbing the mini mike and activating the PTT with snow gloves on takes some practice and getting use to. A VOX headset would be a definite advantage to the experienced skier, but might prove to be an embarrassment to the less experienced with the language, screams and yells that accompany close calls with trees, other skiers and women in tight spandex.

There are many excellent repeaters available in Tahoe basin. Marc and I found, however, that simplex operation on low power worked just fine on the open terrain of the ski resort. No sense tying up a repeater that covers hundreds of square miles to converse over hundreds of feet. We used a common calling frequency and programmed in a local repeater in memory for backup just in case simplex didn't occasionally

work. We never had to use the backup repeater frequency, but did switch to high power now and then to maintain copy.

Carrying extra NiCad packs is less than comfortable or convenient when wearing tight fitting ski clothes. Very uncomfortable when you fall on them and they leave the most unusual bruises. Unless you want to have Yaesu impressed on your backside, we recommend the use of a stackable alkaline pack. No need for extras, an HT will run for days on single set of fresh alkaline batteries.

Some of you might be wondering what other skiers thought when they saw the mic and antenna and overheard us talking to each other. Technonerds? Interesting enough, they were mainly indifferent. Some might have even thought we were ski patrol, but when was the last time your saw the ski patrol doing cartwheels into a snow drift. Several other skiers inquired about what we were using and really liked the idea of being able to communicate with associates on the slopes. Next time I'll remember to carry MDARC applications.

Adding the ability to communicate while active outdoors adds another level of enjoyment. Just being able to enjoy two hobbies at the same time more than doubles the fun. Being able to communicate also allow your to share others experience as well as share your own.

There is a practical and serious sides as well. Anyone who has been to a large ski resort knows just how easy it is to lose track of each other given different runs, lifts, etc. With the HT you always able to track each other. And there is always the possibility of some one getting hurt. Help is much closer with an HT along.

Most of us will also recall the two skiers this year who had the misfortune of becoming disorientated and lost at two major ski areas this winter. Both had to survive in very unforgiving conditions for several days. It had not been for their good common sense and ability to build a shelter to weather out the storm, the results could have been tragic. Now if I get lost with my HT in the pocket, I'll be sitting in the hot tub rather than digging a snow cave that night.

Marc and I, along with our wives, actually succeeded in getting off the main trail at Homewood in broad daylight. We ended up on a seldom used access road at the resort boundary. It was impossible to go back and going forward required traversing up a slight hill for about a quarter of a mile before we could see what lay beyond. Rather than have everyone work their way up the ridge, I was able to go ahead and blaze the trail. The HT allowed the rest of the group to hang back until I determined that the main trail could be accessed. Imagine if it had been driving snow rather than a clear blue sky day. The HT would have provided even greater assurance and confidence.

If you have a story about combining the sport of amateur radio with an outdoor activity, please send it to CARRIER so I can share it with the club. After all, that's what HAM radio is all about. Utilizing technology while having fun and communication with others.

MDARC/RRRG QUAKE-NET INSTRUCTIONS

Immediately after feeling an earthquake, listen to 147.060/+(100 pl).

When frequency is clear, quickly and clearly transmit in the following sequence::

LOCATION, OBSERVATION, NAME and CALL SIGN.

If a Hospital or ARES/RACES net control is established, relinquish use of repeater and break only with urgent traffic using your CALL SIGN and LOCATION or CITY

**The Mount Diablo Amateur
Radio Club**

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Meetings:

Third Friday Each Month
8:00 PM / 2000 hours
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA

1994 Club Officers**President:**

Larry Gansz, KB2GV
(510)356-2411

Vice President:

John Stuart, KM6QX
(510)283-2797

Secretary:

Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ
(510)682-1644

Treasurer:

Frank Williams, WA6NSC
(510)934-3036

Membership Chairman:

Dick Schulze, AA6DL
(510)935-5000

Emergency Coordinator:

Sam Lipson, KO6JR
(510)229-5705

Directors:

Tom Seabury, KC6SYG
(510)837-4433
Ray Gaschk, KD6BLS
(510)933-3242

MDARC-PACIFICON HOT LINE
(510)932-6125**Contra Costa County
ARES/RACES Nets**

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County - 145.680/s

Jim Brunk, N6BHX
(510)372-8248

East County - 146.535/s

Jim Tittle, KC6SOE
(510)432-3220

South County - 146.355/+(100 pl)

Greg Nelson, WB6MBD
(510)933-5381

West County - 145.110/-

Rachel Lewellen, KB6LHR
(510)233-5034

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours

Meeting of all County
ARES/RACES Nets

**The Rocky Ridge Repeater
Group**

P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Next Meeting:

Third Wednesday Of Odd Months
07:30 PM / 1930 hours
Stonebrook Convalescent Center
Concord Blvd., Concord, CA

Chairman:

Jim Tittle, KC6SOE
(510)432-3220

Technical Chairman:

John Hendrickson, WA6LKP
unlisted

RRRG Repeaters

147.060/+(100 pl)
224.780/-(077 pl)
441.325/+(100 pl)
ATV - Input - 1253.250
Output - 427.250 (Cable CH 58)

RRRG Nets

Phone Net - Thursdays
1930 Hours, 147.060/+(100 pl)
Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y
ATV Net - Thursdays
2000 Hours, Net Control:
Mike Burke, KB6RMT,
Alt.: Don Smith, W6NKF,
Youth Net - Thursdays
1900 Hours, 147.060/+(100pl), Net Control rotates

**Contra Costa County
Emergency Services HF Net**

First Thursday following
first Wednesday,
2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz
Net Control:
Sam Lipson, KO6JR

Carrier

Editor: Greydon H. Hicks, KC6SLE
4517 Shellflower Ct., Concord 94518
(510)798-1251
Folding: Jay Caldis, KT6Y
Mailing: Walt Ebbett, KB6QIB
Labels: Dick Schulze, AA6DL

Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ
(510)228-8223

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). This publication is open to all members of MDARC and it is the policy of this Editor to publish all articles submitted by the membership as long as such articles are not obscene, pertain to Amateur Radio, are of interest to the members of MDARC and space is available. Articles are due by the first of each month and are accepted on a first come, first in basis. Articles should be submitted by packet, KC6SLE @ KB6AML.#NOCAL.USA.NA or packet mailbox, KC6SLE-1 or by modem to the Doug Smith's No Name Yet bulletin board, File area #23, at (510) 827-5714 or delivered to the Editor in ASCII format on either 5.25" or 3.5" computer disk. The standard font is Arial 9 point. The Editor's address can be found in the Carrier or MDARC Membership Directory. Articles published in the Carrier may be reproduced provided that such reproduction credits both MDARC and the author of the article. Copyrighted articles will not be accepted for publication in the Carrier.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Livermore Swapmeet	Las Positas College Livermore	First Sunday Each Month All Year, 7:00 AM to Noon
RACES Monthly Meeting	State OEC, Civic Dr. Pleasant Hill	First Wednesday Every Month, 7:30 PM
MDARC Spring Auction	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Ln., Lafayette	7:00 PM Friday March 17, 1995
Deadline for Carrier Articles	NA	April 1, 1995
Concord VEC Exams Gene, WW6H	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord	Sunday, April 02, 1995 1:00 PM
Fairfield HAM Exams Dick, AB6EY, 916-791-0268	Fairfield Senior Center 1200 Civic Drive, Fairfield	Last Saturday of each month 9:00 AM to noon
RRRG General Membership Meeting	Stonebrook Convalescent Center 4367 Concord Blvd., Concord	Wednesday, March 15, 1995 07:30 PM

The Carrier
a newsletter of the
Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



FIRST CLASS MAIL



MDARC SPRING AUCTION IS MARCH 17, 1995!
NEXT RRRG MEETING IS MARCH 15, 1995!